

Dear Sir/Madam

I am concerned at the proposed legislation, which presents a significant threat to free speech and dialogue. The proposed bill gives excessive power to an unelected organisation to shut down any "harmful" speech, which "harm" has been very loosely defined. This in effect would give it the power to prevent dissenting voices and discussion surrounding sensitive issues, which is a very healthy and necessary part of democracy. Furthermore, Government-authorised content would be exempt from this censorship. Surely, this would require the Government to be infallible and unfailingly honest, which is a ludicrous proposition.

Also of great concern is that this censorship seems to hold no accountability or transparency. It seeks to limit the powers and rights of citizens without giving them any recourse.

I note that important digital platforms already exercise great powers of censorship and this bill would legitimise and empower them to continue to do so with impunity.

Please do the right thing. Instead of seeking to control citizens by controlling their access to information, help us to grow as a society through encouraging the sharing of information and beliefs and the practice of healthy discussion.

Yours sincerely

A concerned citizen